

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 10.

SATURDAY, MAY 22ND, 1915.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S.:-

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Friday, May 21st—Decorated Cart—start 4 p.m. prompt from 20 Railway Street.
Saturday, May 22nd—Decorated Cart—start 4 p.m. prompt from 400 Old Ford Road.
Sunday, May 23rd—Decorated Cart—start 4 p.m. prompt from 400 Old Ford Road.
Tuesday, May 25th, 3 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Cyon. Chair: Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Salmon Lane—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Poplar, 20 Railway Street—Miss Feek. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Wednesday, May 26th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, Chrisp Street—Miss Feek. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Ford Road—Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, May 27th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Miss Mary Richardson. Chair: Mrs. Parsons.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Mr. Carlton Smith.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Miss P. Lynch. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Friday, May 21st, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Bouvier. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Decorated Cart—start at 4 p.m. from 20 Railway Street.
Saturday, May 22nd—Decorated Cart—start at 4 p.m. prompt.
Sunday, May 30th—VICTORIA PARK DEMONSTRATION.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays and Mondays 7 to 10 p.m.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town; also gifts of:

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor's attendances and baby weighing
400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.;
20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town.

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.
Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

The Editor of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT would be glad to hear from friends who would provide a temporary home in the country for two "War" mothers, in order that they may gain health and strength to face their new difficulties and responsibilities.



IN THE NURSERY.

[“Daily Mirror” Photograph.]

Women's May Day In East London, SUNDAY, MAY 30th,

PROCESSIONS FROM

Beckton Road, Canning Town ... 3 p.m.

East India Dock Gates ... 3.30 p.m.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION In VICTORIA PARK at 5 p.m.

This will be the Third Anniversary of Women's May Day in East London, which was first held in 1913.

In the midst of War it is more than ever necessary that working women should demonstrate their solidarity and determination in the struggle for political and economic emancipation. It is more than ever necessary that working men should stand by their sisters in the Labour World. The Resolution that will be moved at the Demonstration is as follows:—

1. THAT this Mass Meeting assembled in Victoria Park sends greetings to our Sisters who are striving for political and social emancipation in other lands, and declares its conviction that our first, most permanent and most urgent duty is to the great struggle for human development and human freedom that continues through all time.
2. THAT this Meeting further demands that where women are called on for War Service they shall receive the same pay, whether for piece or time rates, as the men whom they replace, and further insists that the principle of equal pay for equal work shall be established throughout the entire field of industry.
3. THAT in order that women may take their share with dignity and effect in solving the problems that confront the nation, both in war and peace, and in building up a better and freer life for the children of the future, the Parliamentary vote shall be extended to every adult woman.

KENT'S BRUSHMAKERS AGAIN.

There has been another strike at Kent's brush factory. The firm offered soldiers' button brushes to one out-worker at 5s. 6d. a gross. This worker is especially quick, but in 12 hours hard work she found she could only make 1s. 6d., though on other work she had been doing, she earned 3s.

Indoor workers who have only been making from 9s. to 13s. a week, when working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at soldiers' hair brushes, realised that they could not exist at the rates paid for these button brushes.

The button brushes were offered to one worker in the factory. She refused them and a number of others came out on strike with her.

WAR BABIES.

We understand that the mothers of "War Babies" whose fathers are placed under orders for service beyond the seas, cannot bring actions for affiliation and so secure even the paltry maintenance orders for their children which are usually allowed.

Surely this state of the law should be remedied forthwith, unless the War Office is going to shoulder responsibility for the child's keep in its father's stead.

ARE FRENCH WOMEN WORKERS TO BE IMPORTED?

The Times announces that "hundreds of girls from France will arrive shortly for War munitions work."

Many thousands of women of this country have registered for War Service, but a small proportion of whom have found employment, and already, before the War Service Register was started, 50,000 women were unemployed. What reason is there to import French women when so many of our own countrywomen are needing work? Is it to make sure that there shall continue to be a great superfluity of women's labour, in order that wages may be kept down? Is it to secure a compact body of foreign workers, who, because of their isolated position and lack of knowledge of the language, will be less likely than natives to act in combination to protect the position of the workers as a whole?

This is a question of vital importance to British women workers.

I wish to become a member of the
EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE
SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....
Address.....
I enclose 1d. to cover membership
and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's
WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....
Address.....

We urgently need Funds to
carry on our Work.
SEND A SUBSCRIPTION.

WOMEN & WAR.—Service of Intercession
(arranged by the C.L.W.S.) Saturday, 22nd,
3 p.m., in St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside.
Preacher:—The Rev. Canon Masterman,
Rector.

THE SECOND OF A SERIES OF
CONSTRUCTIVE AND EDUCATIONAL
MEETINGS ON PEACE.
(Convened by the Society of Friends.)

AN ADDRESS ON
MATERIAL VERSUS SPIRITUAL FORCE
WILL BE GIVEN BY
Miss A. MAUDE ROYDEN
On Friday, May 28th, at 8.30 p.m. at
DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.
(Opposite Liverpool Street Station.)
Questions invited. Open to all. No tickets.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.
Published by the East London
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as be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and
SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

Vol. II. No. 10.—Sat. May 22nd, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our
share of the World's burdens. Why,
then, deny us the right to Vote, which
would dignify our labour and increase
our Power of Service.

WAR PROFITS.

Before the making of the Treasury
Agreement between Mr. Lloyd George
and the workers Lord Kitchener said:
"We hope that workmen who do work
regularly by keeping good time shall reap
some of the benefits that war automatically
confers on these great companies."

The words have been taken to
mean that the services of the work-
people are to be recognised by some
money grant from the extra war
profits that the armament firms are
making, but in response to questions
put to him in the House of Commons
on May 12th, Mr. Runciman disposed
of this two-months-old belief. He
said that Lord Kitchener had not
given a pledge to do anything of the
kind, and had "chosen his language
with great care, so that he should
not be in a position of declaring
either to workmen or to employers
that he believed that profit-sharing
would be one of the solutions of
whatever difficulties might have
arisen."

This sort of careful juggling with
words, to produce an effect without
being inextricably bound by it, is
hardly what one expects from a man
whose profession is fighting, though
it is unfortunately the sort of thing
that we have learnt to expect from
Cabinet Ministers. We do not think
Lord Kitchener can be feeling grate-
ful to Mr. Runciman for the ex-
planation he has given. We imagine
that no one will be able to take
seriously Mr. Runciman's further
explanation of Lord Kitchener's
words that they "were not un-
connected" with the issue of medals
to be granted on the successful ter-
mination of the War.

Most people will agree that persons
in authority ought to be careful not
to produce an impression of making
promises which they do not mean to
fulfil. But many will say that the
workpeople are being paid the stan-
dard rate of wages with additions for

overtime, and should not expect any
further recompense for doing their
duty, especially when workers, who
are poorer than they, are obliged to
help in paying for the War.

There is a good deal to be said for
this contention, but let us remember
that after the war is over large
numbers of the munition workers
will be thrown out of employment or
put on short time. Often with
health impaired by the strain of the
present over long hours of work, they
will be thrown out to find work where
they can, and reduced to absolute
destitution, whilst the great arma-
ment firms will have amassed great
sums of money to hand on to their
children's children.

Even at the present time the lives
of the workers in the munition fac-
tories are hard and toilsome. The
women earn but paltry wages
although some of them have been
worked, as by Messrs. Greenwood &
Batley of Leeds, 25 and 33 hours.

Mr. Charles Duncan, M.P. in the
House of Commons on May 10th,
gave the following graphic picture of
the munition worker's life.

"All the beds are on double
shift, and the men, most of them,
get no kind of social intercourse,
as we understand that word! Just
imagine for a moment what takes
place. Thousands of men are
drafted into these places. Many of
them have two homes now; they have
left one home to go to another; they
have to endeavour to make homes in
strange places. These men are
living in quarters where, as I have
said, the beds are on double shift.
The people with whom they lodge
can give them no convenience at all,
because as soon as they rise from
their beds, instead of staying in the
house, they have to get away in order
to enable the people to keep the
house tidy and clean."

As for the profits of the armament
firms, Mr. Runciman tells us that
they are to be limited, but he refuses
to say to what extent. We have no
confidence in secret arrangements
that are made between the Govern-
ment and the great financial interests
that are revealed, or partially re-
vealed, to the public only after the
bargain is complete. It is to provide
these excessive war profits, that are
to be somewhat limited, that we are
piling up the National Debt and
shall presently find ourselves crippled
by taxation.

Certain people to-day are asking
for a "Business Government," the
big businesses are controlling the
Government to-day. Mr. Lloyd
George's withdrawal of his liquor
taxes, and his whole conduct of the
problems arising out of the war has
shown us that he is bound hand and
foot by the business interests. Even
the last remnant of his temperance
schemes, the proposal to prevent the
sale of immature spirits, he was only
able to carry by promising to pay
compensation to a number of firms,
and the compensation will undoubt-
edly be huge. Whilst the big firms
successfully demand compensation
the workers, even those whom they
have employed, are held to have no
claim. Mr. Lloyd George himself
referred to the case of the hundreds
of fisherman of the trawlers on the
East Coast of Scotland who are
thrown out of work and must starve
or subsist on the meagrest of charity,
though the owners of the trawlers
have been compensated.

Mr. Lloyd George uttered a mild
protest, but he and his Government
are actually arranging this state of
things.

Injustices of this kind have gone
on unchecked for generations, but
they have grown more glaring since
the war. The Government and the
business interests appear to think that
they may go on, heaping increasing
burdens upon the majority of the
people with absolute impunity. But
they may soon find that they are
wrong.

Much has been heard of the "anti-
German riots, but those who were
on the scene of action know that in
some districts at any rate, those
riots were partly food riots, because

many of the women who took bread
and meat, did so, not from hatred of
the Germans, but because, owing to
rising prices, they have not been
able to buy the minimum quantity
that they must have for their
children's food.

If prices continue to rise as they
are doing, it is certain that food riots
will come eventually, and the happen-
ings of last week have shown us how
rapidly they will spread, and how
difficult they will be to quell.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

ELECTORAL CHANGES.

On May 17th, Mr. Harcourt, Sec-
retary of State for the Colonies,
introduced a Bill "to amend the
original Constitution of Canada, and
to provide for the addition of nine
Members to the Senate." The reason
given for the Bill was "the greater
development of industry and popula-
tion and settlement in the Western
provinces since the North American
Act was passed 48 years ago."

The Bill was speedily passed
through all its stages as a non-
controversial measure so that it
might become law before the Whit-
suntide recess.

When shall we see Votes for
Women made law in the same way?
It could be justified on the same
grounds, and it is of infinitely greater
urgency.

A Government that appeals to
women to organise for War Service
should gladly introduce such a
measure, and the whole Parliament
should assent with enthusiasm.

SOLDIERS AND THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Mr. Harcourt gave the following in-
formation in the House of Commons:
"A New Zealand Act provides that
every member of any Expeditionary
force sent from New Zealand to
serve in the present war shall be
entitled to vote at the next General
Election."

"A Canadian Act provides that
every male British subject of 21 years
and upwards, serving in the military
forces in Canada in the present war,
who, within six months before enlist-
ment had been resident in an electoral
district of Canada for 30 days, shall
be entitled to vote."

"A Queensland Act has been passed
to enable a voter serving with the
forces to nominate a person to exer-
cise his right of voting on his behalf."

As already stated in the WOMAN'S
DREADNOUGHT, ballot boxes are being
sent to the front for the use of the
Canadian troops.

Several times during the Session
the Prime Minister has been invited
to give votes to every soldier and
sailor, irrespective of other qualifi-
cation.

On May 11th Mr. Asquith said:—
"The whole question of franchise
and registration is receiving careful
and detailed consideration, and I
hope shortly to be in a position to
make a statement with regard to it."

No alteration of the franchise can
be secured that does not include a
settlement of the women's claim.
We believe that even Mr. Asquith
realises this.

Jane Addams of America, Dr.
Aletta Jacobs of Holland and Signora
Genoni of Italy, were appointed
envoys by the Women's International
Congress at the Hague. In this
capacity they interviewed the Prime
Minister and Sir Edward Grey and
left with them copies of the resolutions
passed by the Congress.

We do not delude ourselves with
the idea that war can ever be made
humane, but it is with deep regret
that we learn that the use of poison-
ous gas has spread from the German
to the English and French Armies.

In the House of Commons, on
April 29th, Mr. Acland stated, on
behalf of the Local Government
Board, that no steps would be taken
to reduce existing old age pensions
in respect of increases of income
due to the receipt of separation
allowance.

PRICES AND PROFITS.

The following official announce-
ment was made by the Board of
Trade on Monday:—

As the result of conferences at the
Board of Trade, the principal London
coal merchants have now arranged
with Mr. Runciman for a limitation
of the profits to be made by them
from the sale of household coal
during the summer months. It is
anticipated that the arrangement
will be carried into the winter.

We hope that the amount of the
profits agreed on will be made public.
The limitation of profits is a step in
the right direction, but we fear that
the Board of Trade and the coal
merchants cannot be trusted to use
a sufficiently drastic hand in their
limitations. What is needed for fix-
ing profits is a Committee composed
in one-third of working women house-
keepers, in one-third of workers in
the trades affected, and in one-third
of manufacturers and dealers.

We would point out that limitation
of coal profits should include the
profits of the mine-owner as well as
of the merchant.

In the House of Commons, on
May 12th, Mr. Will Thorne stated
that the working classes of this
country are being exploited to the
extent of £700,000 a week, in con-
sequence of the high price of flour
and bread, whilst the increase of
wages is only £72,000 a week!

Mr. W. C. Anderson pointed out
that the price of bread was still rising,
and asked the Prime Minister whether
he still anticipated "a substantial fall
of prices in June," and whether the
Government would reconsider its
policy of inaction.

Mr. Asquith replied: "I doubt
whether there is any adequate reason
for altering the policy hitherto
adopted," and added "it is premature
at the moment to attempt a definite
forecast of the course of prices in
June."

Mr. Snowden asked how it could
be considered premature to speak
about prices of food in June now, if
it was not premature when Mr.
Asquith did so some time ago.

Mr. Asquith answered flippantly:
"Because of the difference between
four months and one month."

Reading such replies given by
Members of the Government to
questions on the most vital matter of
the people's food supply reminds us
of nothing so much as the questions
and answers in "Alice Through the
Looking Glass."

Mr. Hudson stated that in one
warehouse, in Newcastle-on-Tyne,
1,700 tons of green bacon and lard,
which had been seized by a British
warship, were rapidly going bad.

The following prices are from the
Statist:—

	£	£	£
	Veg. Food.	Animal Food.	Sugar Tea & Coffee.
Average, 1905-14	70	92	53
June, 1914	66.5	97.5	51.8
December	93.2	104.3	63
March, 1915	105.6	123.7	69.7
April	109	125	71.9
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Rise since June, 1914	63.9	28.2	38.8

Compared with June, April prices
of 45 articles, including minerals,
textiles, etc., show a rise in the index
number from 81.2 to 105.8, or over
30 per cent., and it is necessary to go
back to 1873 to find prices compar-
able with those now ruling.

PREPARING TO MAKE THE CHILDREN WORK.

The Lancashire Education Com-
mittee on May 18th, adopted a
scheme for allowing school children
of 12 years and upwards to be em-
ployed on farms for six weeks at a
time, and for extending and altering
the school holidays in order that they
might cover the harvest period.

An amendment stipulating that
absence from school should not be
allowed for more than six weeks at a
time and for more than one period
of six weeks, was defeated.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

SHIPOWNERS' PROFITS.

The Clyde Armaments committee, representing workers and employers, has decided that work people who are bad time keepers shall be fined for the first offence £1, for the second £2, for the third £3 with immediate dismissal.

What punishment should be meted out to those who impair the national efficiency by gambling in the people's food?

When we ask that food prices shall be kept down, we are told that "all must make sacrifices when the nation is at war." But what happens where powerful interests are concerned? Mr. Robert Williams, secretary of the National Transport Workers' Federation, gives the following particulars. The Government has taken over certain ships and a committee was appointed by the Government to decide what compensation should be paid to the shipowners. Shipowners are strongly represented on the committee which is presided over by Lord Inchcape, head of the P. and O. Shipping Co. The committee decided that the owners of tramp steamers taken over by the Government, should be paid 9s. 6d. per ton gross register for the first month, 9s. for the second month and 8s. 6d. a month afterwards.

This was the agreement, but after two months a demand was made and agreed to by the Government that the rates, *instead of being lowered to 8s. 6d., should be raised to 11s. per ton a month, on the ground that shipowners' whose vessels had not been taken over were making more money.*

The *Syren and Shipping*, in arguing that shipowners have lost by allowing the Government to use their ships, gives figures to prove that private shippers are making profits of 100 per cent.

Here is a reason why our food is dear—but "we must all make sacrifices for the war!"

WOMEN MUNITION MAKERS GET HALF MEN'S PAY.

The *Labour Leader* Special Commissioner, who is making careful inquiries into conditions in the armament factories, reports that the women and girls work alternately seven twelve-hour days and six twelve-hour nights. On the day shift the women get out for their mid-day meal, on the night shift they do not leave the workroom. They are paid on the average 14s. to 16s. a week, with overtime and bonus. Their gross earnings are half those of men.

Exactly what we predicted is happening. Employers are engaging women to work not on piece rates, but on time rates, because of which equal pay for equal work on time rates is not demanded by the Board of Trade.

WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE.

At a meeting of the West Riding County Council at Wakefield, it was reported that women who were being employed to replace men on the farms of the district were paid 6s. to 9s. when living in, and 12s. to 15s. when they lived outside.

Mr. Ben. Turner, the Labour Mayor of Batley, protested against these wages. Major Dent said that they had been suggested by the Labour Exchanges—not by the farmers.

Mr. Herbert Smith said that some women were paid no more than 1s. 3d. a day.

Is this what the Board of Trade's Grand Scheme of War Service for Women is coming to?

We must demand with renewed vigour that women shall receive the same pay as the men whom they replace, whether on time rates or piece rates, and that no adult woman, however unskilled, shall be paid less than 5d. an hour, or £1 a week.

Neville Tankerville Chamberlayne, a company director, of 14 Gloucester Terrace, Kensington, was ordered at West London Police Court to pay 5s. a week to the support of his illegitimate child.

In Norway, where women vote, the law would compel such a man to bring up the child in accordance with his income and social position.

EXCESSIVE HOURS.

We recently reported that a prosecution had been brought against Messrs. Greenwood and Batley, armament makers of Leeds, for working women and girl employees for periods of 25 and 30 hours.

One of the girls concerned was 16 years of age. She worked from 6 a.m. on Friday till 7.30 a.m. Saturday. Then she had an accident. She had only had two hours' rest for meals on the Friday, and half an hour for breakfast on the Saturday. Other workers who began at 6 a.m. Friday went on till noon on Saturday.

It will be remembered that Mr. Horace Marshall, the stipendiary magistrate, sided with the employers, and adjourned the case *sine die*, saying "the most important thing in the world to-day is that ammunition shall be made."

On May 12th the case was again heard. Mr. Shepherd, who appeared for the Home Office, said that the prosecution was approved by the War Office, for long experience had confirmed it in its view that the extension of working hours did not produce good results. The War Office would not tolerate for a moment at Woolwich the working conditions complained of in this case.

Mr. Horace Marshall refused to convict, and dismissed the case under the Probation Act, making no order as to costs.

AWFUL CONDITIONS in IRELAND

Five years ago Dr. Baillie, the Belfast Medical Officer of Health, reported serious sweating of women in the Belfast linen trade. His statements were repudiated with indignation, but a Government enquiry proved them to be true. Mr. Galway, the General Secretary of the Textile Operatives' Society of Ireland, now writes to the *Freeman's Journal* to say that the rates of pay current when Dr. Baillie made his report have been gravely reduced.

Thread-clipping of machine embroidered cushion covers, of which a dozen take half an hour to do, were paid for at 4d. a dozen, but now the rate has been reduced to 1d. a dozen, which means that the workers are only paid 1d. an hour!

Side-board cloths, of which a dozen can be done in two hours, used to be paid for at 2d. a dozen, but the rate has gone down to 1d. a dozen—a 1d. an hour!

Tea-cloths that take four hours to do are paid at 3d. instead of 6d. a dozen.

Thus, instead of these workers receiving a war bonus, to meet the increased cost of living, their wretched earnings are reduced.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Ginnell called attention to the fact that poor Irish labourers entitled to sick benefit are sometimes unable to get it, because they are unable to travel to a distant certifier, and that poor men's wives are unable to obtain maternity benefit, although certified by nurses to be greatly in need of nourishment, because they are unable to pay the nurse's fee, pending the receipt of benefit.

In the House of Commons on May 17th, Mr. Radford asked that the Government would make it a punishable offence to sell short weight or measure in retail goods. Mr. Runciman answered that it was not convenient to alter the law in this direction, but that the Board of Trade was asking local authorities to protect purchasers against short weight in bread.

Mr. Robertson, for the Board of Trade, stated in the House of Commons that the increased wages secured by agricultural labourers during the past eight months are as follows:—In eight counties, 4s. a week; in 24 counties, 3s. a week; in 19 counties, 2s. a week. In Ireland, the increases do not exceed 1s. or 2s. a week. In Scotland, some farm servants have got increases of £4 the half year.

Mr. Robertson, for the Board of Trade, stated in the House that out of 47,000 women, who had registered for War Service, only 440 had been placed in employment!

THE BELGIAN IDEA IN CO-OPERATION.

From the *Stratford Co-operative Magazine*.

It is the quality of resourcefulness which has made the Belgians prominent in the co-operative movement. Co-operation is only 30 years old in Belgium, but in no country has the movement gone deeper. Possibly every country has some special lessons in organisation to offer the rest of us. Belgium undoubtedly has more than one.

It was in Ghent, where the "Vooruit" co-operative bakery was organised in the early 80's, that the "Belgian idea" in co-operation originated. The Rochdale system had been tried previously and had failed. Then came Edouard Anseele, the son of a poor shoemaker, and proposed a new system as supplementary to the Rochdale system. It was that the profits of the society, instead of being returned to the purchasing members as cash dividends on purchases, should be devoted to a fund for the promotion of social activities among the members.

"Give the people help when they are in need and pleasures when they are prosperous," was Anseele's philosophy. It has worked miracles in Belgium. "It is not enough," he said on another occasion, "to hold our people by their stomachs. It is also necessary to hold them by their hearts."

The beginning of this system was the establishment of a sick benefit fund. Its peculiarity lay in that the benefits were not in cash. The man of the family would become ill and then would follow a period of trouble. This was the time in which the credit offered by the small storekeepers would usually be taken advantage of. The "Vooruit," however, would continue making its usual daily delivery of bread, and demand no payment of any kind. Then a physician would call, give a prescription, asking no fee, and medical supplies would be sent in free of charge. Nor could there be any suggestion of charity, for the member would be made to realise that the expense was met from the surplus which he himself had created with his purchases.

Very early in its career the "Vooruit" met the opposition of the Catholic Church. That was really the first obstacle that Anseele and his associates came up against. Not that the Church was opposed to co-operative baking in itself, for soon the parish priests were organising baking societies themselves, under their own control, to oppose the "Vooruit." But they were bitterly opposed to the principle that the people themselves should control their own sources of supply.

"The priests have learned co-operation from us," said Anseele, when the Catholic baking societies began to appear; "it is our turn to learn from them. Without the women our bakery can never prosper. We, too, must give them music."

Shortly after "Ons Huis" (Our House) was opened by the "Vooruit," the first of these social centres famous in Belgium under the name "Maison du Peuple."

From then on, the membership of the "Vooruit" expanded rapidly. All over Belgium similar methods were initiated by the co-operative societies. In Jolimont, "Le Progres" made a similar appeal to the coal miners, and there the gin mills were an even more powerful enemy than the priests. But the society won out: it put the gin mills out of business by establishing a brewery where beer, served in a garden attached to the clubhouse, was so good and cheap that the miners all became co-operators: practically all the population now belongs to the society. To-day there are 205 such societies, covering all the industrial centres of Belgium, all patterned after Anseele's "Vooruit."

The commercial success of the co-operative enterprises in Belgium is their least remarkable feature. They have not had the time to develop such gigantic enterprises as in Great Britain, especially in the field of production. But to-day the "Vooruit" employs nearly 100 bakers, working under model conditions, turning out 110,000 loaves of bread a week. Beside the two bakeries, the society owns and controls one big

department store, 21 groceries, five clothing and six shoe stores, a coal depot, a chain of drug stores, a large brewery and one of the biggest printing establishments in Belgium, all netting a yearly profit of over £62,000. In Brussels, a larger city, the figures are even more impressive.

Ten years ago the "Vooruit" acquired the present big Maison du Peuple in Ghent, of which the modest little Ons Huis is now only a branch. The mural decorations were executed by Jules Van Biesbroeck, the famous Flemish painter and sculptor, whose studio occupies part of the top floor. There he continues his work, subsidised by the members of the "Vooruit," to create a new art which shall typify the struggles of the masses toward economic emancipation. One of his marble groups, "Vers L'Emancipation," has gained him an international reputation.

In this new clubhouse, costing £40,000, the members and their families spend their evenings dancing, enjoying moving pictures or gathered about a table in the cafe talking and listening to music. Or if they feel more seriously inclined, they may climb the staircase and listen to lectures, debates, concert recitals or read in the big library. Or they may go to the theatre; they are sure to like the play, because at a previous performance they have participated in an election of the season's schedule and the actors. Every recreation that a normal human being may demand may be had here, for all is under the democratic control of the people themselves.

Another feature of this social programme is the walking club. Its routes are so mapped out that each evening will find the tramping members in some co-operative centre, where there is a local society. After the evening's entertainment, each tourist finds a night's lodgings with the family of a local member. When the march is resumed in the morning, the number of the tourists has been increased.

Then there are special bureaus in the various centres which arrange for a systematic exchange of children between families in the various parts of the country. In the summer, the city children are out in the country and in the winter the country children come into the towns to attend school. This system is extended to other countries, so that the children may learn foreign languages and broaden their mental horizons.

These are only a few of the enterprises of a similar nature which constitute the "Belgian idea" in co-operation. In this peculiar way of spreading propaganda, or rather of planting an idea in the hearts of the people, the co-operators of Belgium have gone far beyond the Church. It has proved a success.

BRITISH v. GERMAN WIVES.

British women married to Germans are worse off than German wives of German husbands, for the German Government makes an allowance of 10s. a week to German wives and 3s. to each child. The British Government gives 8s. for the British born wife (10s. within the London area) and 1s. 6d. a week for each child. As a matter of fact the German wives get a better allowance from their Government than Distress Committees and Boards of Guardians make to the English poor.

Where the husband is not interned, German families are in great distress. It is said that only 1 per cent. of the men have work.

On May 17th, Mr. McKenna stated in the House of Commons that 237 persons had been injured in the anti-German riots, that compensation claims are being received under the Riot (Damages) Act, and that the local police are referring all claimants to the Receiver of the Police.

On May 12th, in the House of Commons, Mr. Arthur Henderson drew attention to the fact that where soldiers and their families have been stationed in India, and the soldier is being brought from India to serve with the Expeditionary force, the wife and children making their residence in London, the special London rent allowance of 3s. 6d. is refused.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

IMPORTANT.

Decorated Carts, in which little children, and people who are not strong enough to walk, may ride, will head the Women's May Day Procession on May 30th. Tickets for these conveyances will be:—2d. for children under school age; 6d. for grown-up people. Tickets must be bought in advance.

The Cart for Poplar and Canning Town members and children will start from 20 Railway Street, Poplar, at 2 o'clock, and friends may ride in it to Beckton Road, Canning Town, in order that they may be with the Procession from the start, at 3 p.m. The Bow Cart will leave 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, at 2.30, in order to get to the East India Dock Gates, Poplar, at 3.30 o'clock, and come with the Procession into the Park.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

There was a good attendance at the Women's Hall, at the Tuesday afternoon meeting, and a large and interested crowd listened to our speakers in Victoria Park on Sunday. A good collection was taken and the *Woman's Dreadnought* found a ready sale. Thanks to members who helped in various ways at the Caxton Hall Exhibition, and particularly to the energetic collectors for the "Milk for Babies" Fund. Members and friends please concentrate now on the Women's May Day Demonstration in Victoria Park, on Sunday, May 30th. Volunteers are needed—

(1) To go out in the decorated cart on Saturday, May 22nd, starting at 4 p.m. sharp from 400 Old Ford Road.
(2) To go out in a boat on the lake in Victoria Park with posters and tri-colours on Whit-Sunday and on Saturday, May 29th, at 3 p.m.
(3) To chalk.
(4) To distribute bills.
(5) To carry banners in the procession.

Send in your names without delay to 400 Old Ford Road.

BOW "DREADNOUGHT" SALES.

Week ending April 30th—306.
Mrs. Crabbe 119, Miss O'Brien 96, Mrs. Farrall 40, Mrs. Harley 26, Rose Pengelly 6, Mary Law 4, in Shop 15.

Week ending May 7th—385.
Mr. & Mrs. Payne 147, Miss O'Brien 90, Miss Savoy 52, Mrs. Farrall 40, Miss Norring-ton 26, Mrs. Kelling 12, in Shop 18.

Week ending May 15th—488.
Mr. & Mrs. Payne and Miss O'Brien 293, Mrs. Farrall 38, Mrs. Gardner 36, Mrs. Bouvier 9, Rose 4, Mrs. Savoy 2, in Shop 8.

Bow has been doing very well!

SOLD AT CAXTON HALL.

Nurse Smith 120, Mrs. Jones 60.

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:

Mrs. McCheyne & Mrs. Mantle,
53 St. Leonard Street.

As Miss Pankhurst was obliged to be at Kingsway Hall on Thursday, our weekly meeting, which, by the way, is altered from Tuesday to Thursday, had to be put off, but we hope to see a large crowd next meeting night.

Don't forget to buy your *Dreadnought*, which is on sale at the shop, early Saturday morning.

BROMLEY "DREADNOUGHT" SALES.

Week ending April 30th—31.
Week ending May 7th—108.
Mrs. O'Connell 84, Mrs. McCheyne 22, Mrs. Mantle 2.

Week ending May 15th—25.
Try again Bromley!

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

Owing to the Caxton Hall Exhibition our usual meetings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were not held. On Friday afternoon Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker. The Sunday evening meeting, at which Miss S. Pankhurst, Mrs. Walker and Mr. Petroff were the speakers, was well attended. Madame Godfrey recited.

I would like to draw the attention of our members to the chief point raised by the speakers:—That we must keep our flag flying, now more than ever. People do not seem to know which way to think, and it must be our business to show them the humane way of thinking and acting. Everything that is happening nowadays shows the urgent need of votes for women, and we must never stop fighting. The subscriptions for April amounted to 14s. Shall be pleased to receive those for May. We were late last month owing to Self-Denial Week and the Exhibition, but must make up for lost time this month. Some of our members have not yet returned Self-Denial boxes. Please will you do so? We need more distributors of the paper so try to spare time to come along and do your share.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending May 15th—142. Self-Denial—Mrs. Bertram 4s. 7d., Miss Lagading 3s., Mrs. Schlette 4d. Collections—Mrs. Bird 12s. 1d., Mrs. Drake 4s.

As a result of arbitration between the Newcastle Tramways Committee and representatives of the Tramway employees, it was agreed that women workers should be paid at the rate of 6d. an hour.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).

Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.
Thanks to Miss Lynch, who spoke last Tuesday afternoon.

We are looking forward to a crowded meeting on Thursday, at Old Gravel Pit Hall, when we hope to make many new members.

A letter from a Hackney member was published in the last issue of the *Dreadnought*. Will others follow this example? Don't forget Victoria Park Demonstration on Sunday, May 30th. Sellers and collectors will be needed. Please give in your names at once, as we want Hackney to be well represented.

Hackney members are invited to Bow Club on Monday and Friday evenings, from 7 till 10 p.m.; also to the Sunday meeting held at 400 Old Ford Road, at 8 p.m. Take train from Hackney to Old Ford.

Papers sold, 21; distributed, 100.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BALCHIN,
39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

All enjoyed the fine address on "Women's Suffrage and Physical Culture," delivered by Mr. E. J. Woollams-Seeneey, of the "Health and Vim" Association of Honour, on May 12th. Members are reminded that Mr. Booth is coming again on the 26th. Help is urgently needed at open-air meeting on Thursday nights at Avondale Square, which we are hoping to hold every week through the summer. It is rather difficult for one person to sell papers, distribute leaflets and bills, and chair as well, so please friends come along and help.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.

c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.
Good meeting held Finsbury Park. Sunday meeting as usual next Sunday, 3 p.m.; speaker, Rev. Willis.

All members asked to attend Victoria Park Demonstration on Sunday, May 30th, at which our Society will have a platform.

What will YOU DO to make the WOMEN'S MAY DAY Demonstration a success?

Will you distribute Handbills?

Put up a Poster, or pay for a Poster?

Chalk the time and place of the Procession on your own account or with a party of others?

Write, or come to say what you will do to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow; 20 Railway Street, Poplar; or 55 Fife Road, Canning Town.

A Decorated Cart will drive round to advertise the Demonstration on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, this week and next.

After the VICTORIA PARK DEMONSTRATION, Tea will be provided at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, at popular prices. ALL ARE WELCOME.

"ANYBODY WHO IS A LADY."

We are astonished to learn that when trying a case of assault on a little girl of 13 years of age at Manchester Assizes, Mr. Justice Sankey said: "I see that there are a number of ladies in the public gallery. This is a very unpleasant and disagreeable case and I should have thought anybody who is a lady would have promptly left the Court."

Nowadays women realize that it is a duty to be present when cases affecting little girls are being tried. The pity is that such matters should be left to the decision of men alone and especially men like Justice Sankey who deserves a severe reprimand for his grossly impertinent and ignorant remark.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, on May 18th admitted that Messrs. Ross T. Smyth & Co. were employed to buy wheat on the Government's behalf. No information is given as to how much wheat was bought, for what purpose it was intended, or why buying ceased.

We only know that the price of bread has continued rising.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst wishes to thank the branches of the E.L.F.S. for their kind remembrance of her birthday, the 5th of May. Bow gave her a most useful clock; Poplar, a beautiful vase of flowers; Canning Town, a bouquet of flowers in the colours, and a charming table-centre.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The London Local Pension Committee has urged the Government to increase the old age pension by 1s. a week, but the Government has again refused. Mr. Lloyd George admitted, in reply to a question by Mr. Will Thorne in the House the other day, that the purchasing power of the pension has been reduced by 30 per cent. In 1912, seven old age pensioners were certified as having died from starvation, and eight in 1913.

In the House of Commons, on April 27th, Sir Frederick Banbury stated that the food allowance for British prisoners in some of the German internment camps is 6d. a day. "Sixpence a day, or 3s. 6d. a week, is not a very large allowance to keep a man on," he complained. We would point out to him that many poor people in this country get less. Old age pensioners, when they have paid for rent, coal, and light, etc., certainly have not got 3s. 6d. left over for food.

In Glasgow the landlords are putting up the rents, and charitable funds are being raised to pay them! The landlords should feel such charity degrading and destructive of their self respect. The matter was raised in the House of Commons, but McKenna refused to act.

Recent articles in the *Manchester Guardian* and other papers throw light upon the fact that the English firms of Vickers and Armstrongs are largely concerned in the manufacture of Italian and Japanese armaments.

Lord George Hamilton states that 1,000 soldiers a month are being disabled in the war.

DISABLED BY TRAINING.

An Abercynon Reservist re-joined the 5th Welsh Reserves last September. In a short time he was promoted to Drill Sergeant. He passed two doctors easily, and was perfectly sound and fit, never even having suffered from a cold. At the end of January last he was sent home on sick leave, and was in bed for several weeks seriously ill with bronchitis, pneumonia and cardiac weakness, brought on, so the doctor said, by exposure to damp and cold.

He was ill for two months and during this time had great difficulty in securing the money due to him. He and his wife and four delicate children often went short of food, and his wife had to pawn her wedding ring. Eventually part of the arrears were paid up.

At last he was called up for medical examination and discharged as medically unfit. All that was given to him was a free pass home on the railway. As he was penniless he had to travel, ill as he was, 7½ hours without food and arrived home to find not a morsel of food in the house.

He fainted from exhaustion and only the kindness of neighbours has since preserved the family from starvation. The man succeeded in getting a promise of light work at the colliery, but is too ill to do anything for at least three months.

Before the War he was a stoker earning 40s. to 45s. a week. He was tall and strong, 35 years old, a life long abstainer with a good character.

We have had similar cases to deal with in East London. After weeks of agitation we succeeded in one case in getting an allowance of 1s. 6d. a day for a man with five dependent children. In another case in which a young man has been disabled for life, the authorities have agreed to pay for a truss for him to wear!

It is just as hard for men injured during training to drag through life as helpless invalids as it is for those whose wounds were inflicted in action. It seems to us that the claim to a pension is equal, whether the injury was sustained during training, or at the front.

THANKS TO THE GUNMAKERS.

The workers in the toolroom in the Old Ford Small Arms Factory collected 20s. 10d. for our babies.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Ben Webster, Esq. 4.14.0, Basil E. G. Shelley, Esq. 2.0.0, Miss O. Hockin 1.0.0, Miss C. T. Mitchell 1.0.0, Miss M. Wildicombe 1.0.0, Mrs. Dale-Glossop 5.6, S. Kirkwood, Esq. 5.0, Collection Poplar (Sunday) 3.6, Collections Hackney 3.5, Collection Victoria Park 3.3, Mrs. Hartley Withers 2.6, Collection Bow Women's Hall 1.3½, Anon 0.11, Collection at Members' meeting Bow 0.4, Members' subs for April per Mrs. Drake 14.0, Members' subs per Miss Manicom 1.3, Member's sub Mrs. Cyon 0.6.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—Anon 4.0.0.
SELF DENIAL FUND.—Miss B. Joyce 9.0, Miss Bradish 6.0, Mrs. Bertram 4.7, Nurse Connolly 3.7½, Miss Lagading 3.0, Poplar collection 2.2, Miss Cannon 1.9, Anon 1.0, Poplar patients collecting box 0.11½, Mrs. Shlette 0.4½, A.E. & M. 5.0.

COLLECTIONS AT CAXTON HALL EXHIBITION.—Mrs. Crabb 1.16.0, Milk Churn 1.4.8½, Mrs. Rowan 1.3.1½, Mrs. Bird 1.0.4, Beatty Pengelly 14.7½, Mrs. Hodgson 8.2, Anon 0.6½.

COLLECTIONS.—Merry Maids' Concert (Harrow) 1.3.0, per Mrs. Parsons 16.0, Railway Women's Guild 15.6, Mrs. Bird 12.1, Mrs. Rowan 9.14, per Mrs. Parsons for Babies 3.4½, Mrs. Drake 4.0, Mrs. McCheyne 3.0, Miss Bennett (Brotherhood Church) 1.9½, Anon 1.5½, Mrs. Crabb 0.4½.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mrs. Dangerfield 5.0.0, Mrs. Bull (monthly 1.0.0) 2.0.0, The Misses Smith (monthly) 1.10.0, Toolroom—London Small Arms Factory 1.0.10, Roger P. Sing, Esq. 1.0.0, Lady Lely (monthly) 1.0.0, Mrs. A. M. Burke 1.0.0, Mrs. Clarke 10.0, Anon—Stroud Green (weekly) 10.0, B. Sugden, Esq. 10.0, Miss Morgan Brown 10.0, per Miss G. Tollemache 5.8, Mrs. Morrison 5.0, Miss E. M. Morgan 5.0, Mrs. Vatcher (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Bernard Wright 5.0, Miss A. E. Child 5.0, Anon 3.2½, Miss Morgan Brown 3.0, Miss Shilston 2.6, Miss I. Jones (weekly) 2.0, "Little Gertrude" 2.0, Mrs. Powles (weekly) 1.0, A.J.L. 10.0, Miss Rae 7.6, E. H. Warren, Esq. 7.0, Miss S. Orme 5.0, M.J.H. 5.0, Mrs. Stone 5.0, Mrs. Kummer 4.6, Nurse L. Richards 2.6, Mrs. De Barcay 2.6, per Miss Turner 2.2½.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss Keith, Mrs. Harry Graves, Mrs. M. Knight, Mrs. A. Pitkin, Miss A. Flemming, Mrs. Ernest Jones, Miss D. Henry, Miss Vibert, Mrs. Lennox Broughton.

EGGS.—Mrs. Powell.

CRADLE AND PLAYGROUND.—Mrs. Harry Graves.

Send 4s. 4d. to become a Subscriber to the "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT."